

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Application in light of the Office Action mailed May 19, 2005. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-40 were pending in the Application. Applicants amend Claims 1, 7, 13, 17, 22, 30, 37, and 40 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims and favorable action in this case.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to Claims 7-12 because the term “processor” appears to lack antecedent basis in Claims 7 and 9. *Office Action*, p. 2. Applicants have amended Claim 7 to provide antecedent basis for the term “processor.” The Examiner objects to Claims 7 and 17 because of issues/informalities. *Office Action*, p. 2. Specifically, the Examiner objects to Claim 17 because of a typographical error. Applicants have corrected Claim 17 to address this objection. The Examiner objects to Claim 7 because “it is not clear what is meant by ‘time-length-value (TLV).’” *Office Action*, p. 2. Applicants respectfully submit that the term is clear as originally written in Claim 7. *See, e.g.*, p. 10, ll. 10-11; p. 12, ll. 7-9; p. 16, ll. 19-26.

Section 102 Rejection

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-15, and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2001/0055299 issued to Kelly (hereinafter “*Kelly*”). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection of the above-mentioned claims. “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987); M.P.E.P. §2131.

Applicants respectfully submit that *Kelly* does not disclose, teach, or suggest, either expressly or inherently, each and every element of Claim 1. For example, *Kelly* does not disclose, teach, or suggest “assigning a network region to the network endpoint based on the determined network address.” *Kelly* only discloses “a recursive process of resolving the telephone number domain name . . . to the appropriate IP address of a gateway.” *Kelly*, ¶ 55.

Because *Kelly* fails to teach at least this limitation, Applicants respectfully submit that *Kelly* cannot anticipate Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claim 1 and its dependents.

Independent Claims 7, 13, and 17 recite certain limitations that, for reasons substantially similar to those discussed with reference to independent Claim 1, *Kelly* does not disclose, teach, or suggest, either expressly or inherently. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 7, 13, and 17 together with their dependents.

Section 103 Rejection

The Examiner rejects Claims 11 and 20-40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over *Kelly* as applied to Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-15, and 17-19. As discussed above, Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-15, and 17-19 are patentable over *Kelly*. Claim 11 depends on Claim 7, which Applicants have shown to be allowable, and Claims 20-21 depend on Claim 17, which Applicants have shown to be allowable; therefore, *Kelly* does not disclose, teach, or suggest, either expressly or inherently, certain limitations of Claims 11 and 20-21. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 11 and 20-21.

Independent Claims 22, 30, 37, and 40 recite certain limitations that, for reasons substantially similar to those discussed with reference to independent Claim 1, *Kelly* does not disclose, teach, or suggest, either expressly or inherently. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 22, 30, 37, and 40 with their dependents.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of Claims 5 and 16. Applicants also note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that the subject matter of these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. *Office Action*, p. 8. As discussed above, Applicants believe that independent Claim 1 (from which Claim 5 depends) and independent Claim 13 (from which Claim 16 depends) are allowable in their current form. Therefore, Applicants have kept Claim 5 and 16 in their dependent form and respectfully

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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PATENT APPLICATION
10/050,228

14

submit that Claims 5 and 16 are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-40.

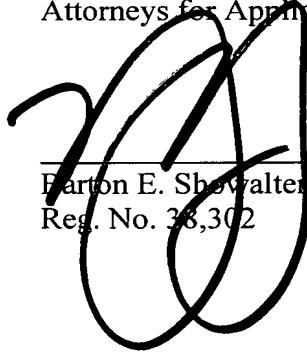
CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for all other reasons clear and apparent, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Applicants believe no fee is due. However, if this is not the case, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any amount required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to advance prosecution of this application, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact its attorney, Barton E. Showalter, at (214) 953-6509.

Respectfully submitted,
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